

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

RICHMOND — The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will hold a public meeting to present the draft water quality improvement plan for reducing agricultural and residential sources of bacteria in Cripple Creek (Smyth & Wythe Counties) and Elk Creek (Grayson County) on January, 28, 2014. The meeting will be held from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Summerfield UMC Community Clubhouse located at 4680 Carsonville Road Fries VA 24330, near the community of Elk Creek. Directions are provided at the end of this notice.

Cripple Creek originates near Rural Retreat in Smyth County and flows east into the New River near Ivanhoe. Elk Creek is located in the northern half of Grayson County and flows into the New River a few miles west of Galax.

Elk Creek and segments of Cripple Creek do not meet state water quality standards for *E. coli* (i.e. fecal bacteria). Elevated levels of *E. coli* indicate an increased risk of illness for people who come in contact with water in the affected streams. Bacteria sources identified in the area include failing septic systems, discharges of untreated human waste (i.e. straight pipes), and livestock waste.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will present an overview of the types and amount of corrective actions that are needed to meet water quality goals and the framework through which stakeholders can implement the corrective actions.

The public meeting provides an opportunity for citizens and interested parties to ask questions, provide comments on the plan, and will begin a 30 day period during which written public comments will be accepted.

Questions, information requests, and comments should be addressed to Patrick Lizon, TMDL/Watershed Field Coordinator with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality at 355-A Deadmore Street, Abingdon, VA 24210, email address: Patrick.Lizon@deq.virginia.gov, phone # (276) 676-4803. Comments must be submitted by February 28, 2014.

Directions to the Summer field UMC Community Clubhouse: From Wytheville in the north: from the junction of U.S. HWY 11 and U.S. HWY 21 in Wytheville, follow U.S. 21 south approximately 20.2 miles to the community of Elk Creek at the junction of Hwy 21 and Comers Rock Rd (Rd 658). Continue on HWY 21, for approximately 0.4 miles (just past the Elk Creek Rescue Squad Station on the right) and turn left on Carsonville Rd (Rd 660). Continue on Carsonville Road for 5 miles. The building is located at the intersection of Carsonville Road and Churchview Lane (Rd 717), on the left side of the road (Carsonville Rd makes a sharp left turn at

the intersection while Churchview lane goes straight). **From Independence in the south:** Head north on HWY 21 for approximately 9.1 miles to the intersection of HWY 21 and Carsonville Rd (on the right side of HWY 21). The Carsonville Rd intersection is on the right (just before the Elk Creek Rescue Squad building on the left side of HWY 21). Follow the directions listed above to get from the Carsonville Rd turnoff to the Summerfield UMC Community Clubhouse.